

P L A

All those *plagues*, which earth and air had brooded,
First on inferior creatures try'd their force,
And last they seiz'd on man. *Lee and Dryden.*

2. State of misery.
I am set in my *plague*, and my heaviness is ever in my
light. *Psalms xxxviii. 17.*

3. Any thing troublesome or vexatious.
'Tis the time's *plague*, when madmen lead the blind. *Shak.*
I am not mad, too well I feel
The different *plague* of each calamity. *Shaksp. K. John.*
Good or bad company is the greatest blessing or greatest
plague of life. *L'Estrange.*

Sometimes my *plague*, sometimes my darling. *Prior.*

TO *PLAGUE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To infect with pestilence.
2. To trouble; to tease; to vex; to harass; to torment; to
afflict; to distress; to torture; to embarrass; to excruciate;
to make uneasy; to disturb.

If her nature be so,
That she will *plague* the man that loves her most,
And take delight to encrease a wretch's woe,
Then all her nature's goodly gifts are lost. *Spenser.*

Say my request's unjust,
And spurn me back; but if it be not so,
Thou art not honest, and the gods will *plague* thee. *Shak.*

Thus were they *plagu'd*
And worn with famine. *Milton.*

People are storm'd out of their reason, *plagu'd* into a com-
pliance, and forced to yield in their own defence. *Collier.*

When a Neapolitan cavalier has nothing else to do, he
gravely shuts himself up in his closet, and falls a tumbling
over his papers, to see if he can start a law suit, and *plague*
any of his neighbours. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*

PLAGU'LY. *adv.* [from *plaguy*.] Vexatiously; horribly. A
low word.

This whispering bodes me no good; but he has me so *pla-*
guily under the lash, I dare not interrupt him. *Dryden.*

You look'd scornful, and fust at the dean;
But he durst not so much as once open his lips,
And the doctor was *plaguily* down in the hips. *Swift.*

PLAGUY. *adj.* [from *plague*.] Vexatious; troublesome. A
low word.

Of heats,
Add one more to the *plaguy* bill. *Donne.*

What perils do environ
The man that meddles with cold iron,
What *plaguy* mischiefs and mishaps
Do dog him still with after-claps. *Hudibras.*

PLAICE. *n. f.* [plate, Dutch.] A flat fish.

Of flat fish there are soles, flounders, dabs and *plaice*. *Carew.*

PLAID. *n. f.* A striped or variegated cloth; an outer loose
weed worn much by the highlanders in Scotland; there is a
particular kind worn too by the women; but both these
modes seem now nearly extirpated among them; the one by
act of parliament, and the other by adopting the English
dresses of the sex.

PLAIN. *adj.* [planus, Latin.]

1. Smooth; level; flat; free from protuberances or excres-
cences. In this sense, especially in philosophical writings,
it is frequently written *plane*: as, a *plane* superficies.

It was his policy to leave no hold behind him; but to
make all *plain* and waste. *Spenser.*

The South and South-East sides are rocky and mountainous,
but *plain* in the midst. *Sandys's Journey.*

Thy vineyard must employ thy starchy steer
To turn the glebe; besides thy daily pain
To break the clods, and make the surface *plain*. *Dryden.*

Hilly countries afford the most entertaining prospects,
though a man would chafe to travel through a *plain* one. *Add.*

2. Void of ornament; simple.

A crown of ruddy gold inclos'd her brow,
Plain without pomp, and rich without a show. *Dryden.*

3. Artless; not subtle; not specious; not learned; simple.

In choice of instruments, it is better to chuse men of a
plain sort, that are like to do that that is committed to them,
and to report faithfully the success, than those that are coun-
ting to contrive somewhat to grace themselves, and will help
the matter in report. *Bacon's Essays.*

Of many *plain*, yet pious christians, this cannot be af-
firmed. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

The experiments alledged with so much confidence, and
told by an author that writ like a *plain* man, and one whose
profession was to tell truth, helped me to resolve upon making
the trial. *Temple.*

My heart was made to fit and pair within,
Simple and *plain*, and fraught with artless tendernefs. *Rowe.*

Our troops beat an army in *plain* fight and open field. *Felt.*

Must then at once, the character to save,
The *plain* rough hero turn a crafty knave? *Pope.*

4. Honestly rough; open; sincere; not soft in language.

Give me leave to be *plain* with you, that yourself give no
just cause of scandal. *Bacon.*

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5. Mere; bare.

He that beguill'd you in a plain accent, was a *plain* knave,
which, for my part, I will not be. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

Some have at first for wits, then poets pass,
Turn'd critics next, and prov'd *plain* fools at last. *Pope.*

6. Evident; clear; discernible; not obscure.

They wonder'd there should appear any difficulty in any
expressions, which to them seem'd very clear and *plain*. *Clar.*

Express thyself in *plain*, not doubtful words,
That ground for quarrels or disputes affords. *Denham.*

I can make the difference more *plain*, by giving you my
method of proceeding in my translations; I considered the
genius and distinguishing character of my author. *Dryden.*

'Tis *plain* in the history, that Esau was never subject to
Jacob. *Locke.*

That children have such a right, is *plain* from the laws of
God; that men are convinced, that children have such a
right, is evident from the law: is the *plain*. *Locke.*

It is *plain*, that these discourses are calculated for none, but
the fashionable part of womankind. *Addison's Spectator.*

To speak one thing mix'd dialects they join;
Divide the simple, and the *plain* define. *Prior.*

7. Not varied by art.

A *plain* song *plain*-singing voice requires,
For warbling notes from inward cheering flow. *Sidney.*

PLAIN. *adv.*

1. Not obscurely.

2. Distinctly; articulately.

The string of his tongue was loos'd, and he spake *plain*.
Mar. vii. 35.

3. Simply; with rough sincerity.

Goodman Fact is allowed by every body to be a *plain*-
spoken person, and a man of very few words; tropes
and figures are his aversion. *Addison's Court Tatler.*

PLAIN. *n. f.* [plaine, Fr.] Level ground; open; flat; often,
a field or battle.

In a *plain* in the land of Shinar they dwelt. *Gen. xi. 2.*

The Scots took the English for foolish birds fallen into
their net, forsook their hill, and march'd into the *plain* di-
rectly towards them. *Hayward.*

They erected their castles and habitations in the *plains* and
open countries, where they found most fruitful lands, and
turn'd the Irish into the woods and mountains. *Davies.*

Four forth Britannia's legions on the *plain*. *Arbutnot.*

While here the ocean gains,
In other parts it leaves wide sandy *plains*. *Pope.*

The impetuous courier pants in ev'ry vein,
And pawing seems to beat the distant *plain*. *Pope.*

TO *PLAIN*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To level; to make even.

Upon one wing, the artillery was drawn, every piece hav-
ing his guard of pioneers to *plain* the ways. *Hayward.*

TO *PLAIN*. *v. n.* [plaindre, je plains, Fr.] To lament; to
wail.

Long since my voice is hoarse, and throat is sore,
With cries to skies, and curses to the ground;
But more I *plain*, I feel my woes the more. *Sidney.*

A *plain* song *plain*-singing voice requires
For warbling notes from inward cheering flow. *Sidney.*

The fox, that first this cause of grief did find,
'Gan first thus *plain* his case with words unkind. *Habberd.*

The incessant weeping of my wife,
And piteous *plainings* of the pretty babes,
Forc'd me to seek delays. *Shaksp.*

He to himself thus *plain'd*. *Milton.*

PLAINDEALING. *adj.* [plain and deal.] Acting without art.

Though I cannot be said to be a flattering honest man; it
must not be denied, but I am a *plaindealing* villain. *Shaksp.*

Bring a *plaindealing* innocence into a consistency with ne-
cessary prudence. *L'Estrange.*

PLAINDEALING. *n. f.* Management void of art.

I am no politician; and was ever thought to have too little
wit, and too much *plaindealing* for a statesman. *Denham.*

It looks as fate with nature's law may strive
To shew *plaindealing* once an age would thrive. *Dryden.*

PLAINLY. *adv.* [from *plain*.]

1. Levelly; flatly.

2. Not subtilly; not speciously.

3. Without ornament.

4. Without gloss; sincerely.

You write to me with the freedom of a friend, setting
down your thoughts as they occur, and dealing *plainly* with
me in the matter. *Pope.*

5. In earnest; fairly.

They charged the enemies horse so gallantly, that they
gave ground; and at last *plainly* run to a safe place. *Clarend.*

6. Evidently; clearly; not obscurely.

St. Augustine acknowledgeth, that they are not only set
down, but also *plainly* set down in scripture; so that he which
heareth or readeth, may without difficulty understand. *Hector.*

Coriolanus neither cares whether they love or hate him;
and out of his carelessness, let's them *plainly* see't. *Shaksp.*

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By that feed
Is meant thy great deliverer, who shall bruise
The serpent's head; whereof to thee anon
Plainlier shall be reveal'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*

We see *plainly* that we have the means, and that nothing
but the application of them is wanting. *Addison.*

PLAINNESS. *n. f.* [from *plain*.]

1. Levelness; flatness.

2. Want of ornament; want of show.

If some pride with want may be allowed,
We in our *plainness* may be justly proud,
Whate'er he's pleas'd to own, can need no show. *Dryden.*

As shades most sweetly recommend the light,
So modest *plainness* sets off sprightly wit. *Pope.*

3. Openness; rough sincerity.

Well, said Basilus, I have not chosen Dametas for his
fighting nor for his discouraging, but for his *plainness* and ho-
nesty, and therein I know he will not deceive me. *Sidney.*

Your *plainness* and your shortness please me well. *Shaksp.*

Think't thou, that duty shall have dread to speak,
When pow'r to flat'try bows; to *plainness* honour
Is bound, when majesty to folly falls. *Shaksp. K. Lear.*

Plainness and freedom, an epistolary stile required. *Wake.*

4. Artlessness; simplicity.

All laugh to find
Unthinking *plainness* so o'er spreads thy mind,
That thou could'st seriously persuade the crowd
To keep their oaths. *Dryden's Juvenal.*

PLAINTE. *n. f.* [plainte, French.]

1. Lamentation; complaint; lament.

Then pour out *plaints*, and in one word say this;
Helpless are *plaints*, who spoils himself of bliss. *Sidney.*

Booteless are *plaints*, and cureless are my wounds. *Shak.*

From inward grief
His bursting passion into *plaints* thus pour'd. *Milton.*

2. Exprobration of injury.

There are three just grounds of war with Spain; one of
plaint, two upon defence. *Bacon.*

3. Expression of sorrow.

How many children's *plaints*, and mother's cries!
Where though I mourn my matchless loss alone,
And none between my weakness judge and me;
Yet even these gentle walls allow my moan,
Whose doleful echoes to my *plaints* agree. *Wotton.*

Sat in their sad discourse, and various *plaints*,
Thence gather'd his own doom. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

For her relief,
Vext with the long expressions of my grief,
Receive these *plaints*. *Waller.*

PLAINTEFUL. *adj.* [plaint and full.] Complaining; audibly
sorrowful.

To what a sea of miseries my *plaintful* tongue doth lead
me. *Sidney, b. ii.*

PLAINTEIFF. *n. f.* [plaintiff, Fr.] He that commences a suit in
law against another; opposed to the defendant.

The *plaintiff* proved the debt by three positive witnessses,
and the defendant was cast in costs and damages. *L'Estrange.*

You and I shall talk in cold friendship at a bar before a
judge, by way of *plaintiff* and defendant. *Dryden.*

In such a cause the *plaintiff* will be his'd,
My lord, the judges laugh, and you're dismiss'd. *Pope.*

PLAINTEIFF. *adj.* [plaintiff, Fr.] Complaining. A word not
in use.

His younger son on the polluted ground,
First fruit of death, lies *plaintiff* of a wound
Giv'n by a brother's hand. *Prior.*

PLAINTEIVE. *adj.* [plaintive, Fr.] Complaining; lamenting;
expressive of sorrow.

His careful mother heard the *plaintive* found,
Encompass'd with her sea-green sisters round. *Dryden.*

The goddess heard,
Rose like a morning mist, and thus begun
To soothe the sorrows of her *plaintive* son. *Dryden.*

Can nature's voice
Plaintive be drown'd, or lessen'd in the noise,
Though thouts as thunder loud afflict the air.
Leviathans in *plaintive* thunders cry. *Prior.*

PLAINWORK. *n. f.* [plain and work.] Needlework as distin-
guished from embroidery; the common practice of sewing
or making linen garments.

She went to *plainwork*, and to purling brooks. *Pope.*

PLAIT. *n. f.* [corrupted from *plight* or *pyght*, from *ply* or *fold*.]

A fold; a double.

Should the voice directly strike the brain,
It would astonish and confound it much;
Therefore these *plaits* and folds the found restrain,
That it the organ may more gently touch. *Davies.*

Nor shall thy lower garments artful *plait*,
From thy fair side dependent to thy feet,
Arm thy chaste beauties with a modest pride,
And double ev'ry charm they seek to hide. *Prior.*

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'Tis very difficult to trace out the figure of a vest through
all the *plaits* and foldings of the drapery. *Addison.*

TO *PLAIT*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To fold; to double.

The busy sylphs surround their darling care,
Some fold the sleeve, while others *plait* the gown;
And Betty's prais'd for labours not her own. *Pope.*

Will she on Sunday morn thy neckcloth *plait*. *Gay.*

2. To weave; to braid.

Let it not be that outward adorning of *plaiting* the hair. *Peter iii. 3.*

What the demands, incessant I'll prepare;
I'll weave her garlands, and I'll *plait* her hair;
My busy diligence shall deck her board,
For there at least I may approach my lord. *Prior.*

3. To intangle; to involve.

Time shall unfold what *plaited* cunning hides,
Who covers faults at last with shame derides. *Shaksp. Lear.*

PLAITER. *n. f.* [from *plait*.] He that plaits.

PLAN. *n. f.* [plan, French.]

1. A scheme; a form; a model.

Remember, O my friends, the laws, the rights,
The generous *plan* of power delivered down
From age to age to your renown'd forefathers. *Addison.*

2. A plot of any building or ichnography; form of any thing
laid down on paper.

Artists and *plans* reliev'd my solemn hours;
I founded palaces, and *plaited* bow'rs. *Prior.*

TO *PLAN*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To scheme; to form in
design.

Vouchsafe the means of vengeance to debate,
And *plan* with all thy arts the scene of fate. *Pope.*

PLANARY. *adj.* Pertaining to a plane. *DiD.*

PLANCHED. *adj.* [from *planche*.] Made of boards.

He hath a garden circummur'd with brick,
Whose Western side is with a vineyard backt,
And to that vineyard is a *planched* gate. *Shaksp.*

That makes his opening with this bigger key. *Shaksp.*

PLANCHER. *n. f.* [plancher, French.] A board; a plank.

Oak, cedar and chefnut are the best builders; some are
best for *planchers*, as deal; some for tables, cupboards and
decks, as walnuts. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

PLANCHING. *n. f.* In carpentry, the laying the floors in a
building. *DiD.*

PLANE. *n. f.* [planus, Latin.] *Plane* is commonly used in popu-
lar language, and *plane* in geometry.]

1. A level surface.

Comets, as often as they are visible to us, move in *planes* in-
clined to the *plane* of the ecliptick in all kinds of angles. *Bent.*

Projectils would ever move on in the same right line, did
not the air, their own gravity, or the ruggedness of the *plane*,
on which they move, stop their motion. *Chyren.*

2. [Plane, Fr.] An instrument by which the surface of boards
is smoothed.

The iron is set to make an angle of forty-five degrees with
the sole of the *plane*. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*

TO *PLANE*. *v. a.* [planer, Fr. from the noun.]

1. To level; to smooth from inequalities.

The foundation of the Roman causeway was made of rough
stone, joined with a moist firm cement; upon this was laid
another layer of small stones and cement, to *plane* the inequali-
ties of rough stone, in which the stones of the upper pave-
ment were fixt. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

2. To smooth with a plane.

These hard woods are more properly scraped than *planed*.
Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.

PLANE-TREE. *n. f.* [platanus, Lat. plane, platane, Fr.]

The *plane-tree* hath an ammentaceous flower, consisting of
several slender stamina, which are all collected into spherical
little balls and are barren; but the embryos of the fruit,
which are produced on separate parts of the same trees, are
turgid, and afterwards become large spherical balls, containing
many oblong seeds intermixed with down: it is generally sup-
posed, that the introduction of this tree into England is
owing to the great lord chancellor Bacon. *Miller.*

The beech, the swimming alder and the *plane*. *Dryd.*

PLANET. *n. f.* [planeta, Lat. πλανητα; planetta, Fr.]

Planets are the erratic or wandering stars, and which are not
like the fixt ones always in the same position to one another:
we now number the earth among the primary *planets*, because
we know it moves round the sun, as Saturn, Jupiter, Mars,
Venus and Mercury do, and that in a path or circle between
Mars and Venus: and the moon is accounted among the secon-
dary *planets* or satellites of the primary, since the moves
round the earth: all the *planets* have, besides their motion
round the sun, which makes their year, also a motion round
their own axes, which makes their day; as the earth's re-
volving so makes our day and night: it is more than probable,
that the diameters of all the *planets* are longer than their axes:
we know 'tis so in our earth; and Flamsteed and Cassini
found it to be so in Jupiter: Sir Isaac Newton asserts our
earth's equatorial diameter to exceed the other about thirty-
four